## Dear Fellow Senior Citizens,

You have certainly heard and read about the new Medicare Part D plan by which Medicare beneficiaries will receive coverage on certain prescription drugs, subject to certain cost limits. There is considerable confusion about the new benefits. On the reverse, I explain the benefits as I understand them.

If you need counseling concerning the best plan for you, telephone the CHOICES program at 1-800-994-9422. All the particular plans are listed in the booklet you received called "Medicare and You—2006" and also on the Internet at www.medicare.gov. The telephone number for Medicare is 1-800-633-4227.

I am also proud to announce that the Connecticut General Assembly has now approved legislation which will help fill in some of the gaps in Medicare Part D: the state of Connecticut will pay the prescription co-payment for all Medicare recipients who are also eligible for Medicaid benefits; may pay for certain prescription drugs that are not covered by the Medicare Part D benefits; and will ensure that ConnPACE recipients do not have to pay more than \$16.25 per prescription.

I hope that this information is helpful and suggest that you call the telephone numbers listed above for assistance. Please know that I am not a health benefits expert and am providing this information to you based upon materials that have been provided to me as your state Senator.

Sincerely,
Ed Meyer



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## Edward Meyer

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- There may be a \$250 annual deductible, depending upon the Part D plan you choose.
- Por prescription drug bills ranging from \$251 to \$2,250, Medicare will pay 75% of the costs and you will pay 25%.
- There will be no Medicare coverage for prescription bills costing \$2,250 to \$5,100 during any particular year.
  This gap is often referred to as the "doughnut hole."
- With respect to prescription drugs costing more than \$5,100, Medicare will pay 95% and you will pay 5%.

There are several important conditions that you must consider. First, in order to get the benefits, you must pick a private prescription plan by May 15, 2006, for which you will owe a premium, dependent on the plan, ranging from \$7.32 to \$65.58 per month. The plan you choose will depend on the prescription drugs you need.

Please also know that if you are enrolled in an employee or other private health plan, you may retain those benefits and not need Medicare Part D coverage, realizing that your own health plan provides you with prescription drug coverage. If you drop or lose your current employee or other health plan, then you must enroll in one of the Medicare prescription drug plans.